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LETTER DATED 23 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that the Republic of Armenia is continuing its aggression against the Azerbaijani Republic.

Demonstrating once again their scandalous contempt for the decisions of the United Nations Security Council, Armenian armed forces have carried out a large-scale attack in the south-west sector adjacent to the Armenian-Azerbaijani frontier, completely surrounding as of this hour the district centres of Fizuli and Djebrail and occupying dozens of inhabited localities in the Fizuli, Djebrail, Kubatly and Zangelan districts. (The latter has no common border with Nagorny Karabakh and is subject to continual attacks by Armenia.) The armed forces of the Republic of Armenia are simultaneously engaged in a massive rocket-artillery bombardment of settlements in the Kazakh and Tauz districts, situated a significant distance from Nagorny Karabakh.

The fact that all this is occurring immediately after the adoption of the statement made on 18 August by the President of the Security Council, which condemned the attacks of the Armenian armed forces directed against Fizuli and other populated areas in the south-western part of the Azerbaijani Republic and demanded the immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces from those areas, and also from the previously occupied districts of Kelbajar and Agdam, bears witness to Armenia's disregard of the urgent calls by the world community for an end to the bloody conflict, which has already lasted five years and which was caused by the desire of the Armenian expansionists to seize a significant part of the territory of the sovereign Azerbaijani Republic.

The attempts made by various international forums to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict are continually being nipped in the bud by repeated acts of provocation on the part of the Armenian armed forces. That has also occurred on this occasion.

On the very day after the adoption of the statement by the President of the Security Council, Armenian armed forces stepped up their onslaught against the district centre of Djebrail and, for a short time on 19 August, occupied the town. Despite the fact that, with the aid of reinforcements, units of the Azerbaijani national army soon succeeded in re-establishing control over the town, Armenian units strengthened their positions on the heights that encircle the town to the north and are continuing to rain fire upon it. By 20 August,

Armenian armed forces had already occupied 34 villages in the Fizuli district and 14 villages in the Djebrail district.

Since 18 August, deadly clashes have continued around the village of Gyulebird in the southern part of Lachin district of the Azerbaijani Republic. Military hardware and personnel from the military base at Kornidzor in Armenian territory were transferred to this sector of the front by the Armenian expeditionary corps command. Although Azerbaijani troops repulsed Armenian forces from one of the elevations surrounding Gyulebird, Armenian positions at this point are 5-6 kilometres inside the territory of Azerbaijan.

At the same time, frontier villages in the Kubatly and Zangelan districts were subjected to intensive bombardment from the territory of the Kafan district of Armenia. The village of Soyug in the Ordubad district of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic also came under shelling from Armenian territory.

On 21 August, with the aid of a 12-tank armoured group sent in along the Agdam-Khojavend highway, Armenian armed forces launched an attack to the east of Nagorny Karabakh, deep into Azerbaijani territory. As a result of this assault, they captured the inhabited locality of Agburun and several hills overlooking the village of Ovshar in the Agjabedi district, 30 kilometres from the border of Nagorny Karabakh.

On the night of 22 August, the Armenian army once again launched a massive assault on Fizuli. The town was attacked from three sides. In the face of numerically superior enemy forces, the Fizuli garrison, while continuing to fight, was forced to withdraw from the town in an easterly direction. Rearguard Azerbaijani elements, covering the retreat of units of the national army of Azerbaijan from Fizuli, continued yesterday to fight in the eastern suburbs of this important district centre in south-western Azerbaijan (in the villages of Yukhary Aibasanly, Seyidmakhmudly and Makhmudly). According to the situation on the morning of 23 August, the front had already moved 5 kilometres further east and 10-13 kilometres further south of Fizuli. As a result of the Armenian attack, 42 inhabited localities in the Fizuli district were occupied.

By all evidence, even the latest territorial acquisitions do not satisfy the appetites of the Armenian aggressors, as can be seen from the attacks in the direction of the village of Gyulistan, Geranboy district, which were renewed during the past few days.

The above facts demonstrate that the cautious, half-hearted approach towards condemning the Armenian aggression against the Azerbaijani Republic has created the impression on the part of the Republic of Armenia that it enjoys full impunity and is able to ignore the decisions of such authoritative forums as the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as the resolutions of the Security Council, which have mandatory force.

This once again strengthens the Azerbaijani side in the belief that only immediate recognition of the Republic of Armenia as the aggressor and the imposition against it of the sanctions provided for in Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations can compel the Armenian military clique to respect the principles of international law and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijani Republic.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative